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Remarks on a pamphlet  
entitled "Prof. Hale and  
Dartmouth College."

[1835?]

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# REMARKS

ON

A PAMPHLET ENTITLED

“PROF. HALE AND DARTMOUTH COLLEGE.”

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## REMARKS.

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THE fact, and the circumstances, of the Rev. Benjamin Hale's removal from the office of professor of chemistry in Dartmouth college, have been before the public for a considerable time, and have given rise to a great deal of excitement, which has not yet subsided. The circumstances were so unusual as to call the attention of the public to the transaction, and to give rise to an inquiry into the causes which led to so extraordinary a proceeding. That a knowledge of these causes, as far as they could be learned from the statements of both parties, has not removed this excitement, is an evidence that the public are not satisfied with the measure; and the strong, and almost universal indignation which has been expressed at the treatment which Mr. Hale has received, evince that the public regard him as an injured man.

Mr. Hale's own sense of injury, when the blow, which had been silently meditating against him, was struck, was naturally great; and he thought it due to himself, as well as to the public, to make a full exposition of the circumstances of the transaction, that its real character might be understood by the community; that his own character might not become the victim of secret insinuations, and anonymous slanders, which he soon found were in active circulation; and that the public might be informed of the

principles on which an important public institution was administered. In order to evade the force of the remark, that the strong general excitement on this subject, is an evidence of the public sympathy with Mr. Hale, he is charged with being the author of it himself, because he did not silently and passively submit to what he felt to be unworthy and injurious treatment. He is also charged with giving "the influence of his name to the crusade which is carried on against the college." In answer to these charges, it is sufficient to say, that Mr. Hale's appeal to the public, *was a measure of self-defence*. The trustees were the aggressors in this controversy. The manner in which Mr. Hale *was got rid of*, was such as scarcely to admit of any semblance of justification which did not involve an attack upon his character. The resolutions, themselves, by which he was removed, contain no satisfactory reason for the measure; for, even admitting that the interests of the college required a new organization of his professorship, this furnishes no explanation of the necessity of discarding him, since the new professorship must still be filled by some one; and why Mr. Hale was not retained for the purpose, required explanations which the resolutions do not give. The trustees were evidently conscious that something more was necessary in justification of so extraordinary a measure, than the dry and naked technicalities of their resolutions; and this was to be found in insinuations or more direct allegations of unfaithfulness and incompetency in the discharge of his official duties. So much was this the fact, that the very day after the resolutions were passed, and three days before Mr. Hale was apprised of the blow which had been struck, a direct attack was commenced upon his character by a member of the board in a stage-coach, and in the presence of several passengers. The fact of his re-

removal was triumphantly mentioned, and the measure was justified on the ground of his neglecting his official duties, and of his devoting to the promotion of Episcopacy, that time and attention, which he ought to have devoted to the duties of his professorship. The knowledge of this fact, the evidence of which Mr. Hale has in his possession, apprised him of the nature of the attack, to which his character was exposed, and of the impossibility of meeting it in any other way, than by bringing the subject directly before the public. The duty which he owed to himself, and to his family, required that he should not suffer his character to become the victim of secret charges, which he knew to be unfounded; and whatever evils might incidentally result to the college from a public appeal, he considered as in nowise justly chargeable upon himself, but upon those who had imposed so painful a duty upon him. As to the crusade, which is said to be carried on against the college, Mr. Hale is no way answerable for it; and to connect his name with it, is obviously a mere stratagem, to undermine the strength of his cause, with the friends of order and religion. If Mr. Hale is to be made answerable for anonymous attacks, which may have been made upon the college, since his removal; who is to be made answerable for the numerous shameful and unblushing falsehoods respecting him, which have appeared in various articles in defence of the trustees, published in one of the public prints at Concord?

Mr. Hale's letter to the trustees, then, was a measure of self-defence. Was it his duty, not only to be silent under an act of great injustice, with which he felt that he had been treated—an act distinguished by circumstances of singular discourtesy, if not insult—but quietly and passively to look on and see his character assailed by official and anonymous slander, in justification of the act of the trus-

tees in removing him? No doubt such a course would have been highly acceptable to this respectable body, and indeed it was one which, we are told, "was hoped and expected" from Mr. Hale. It would, perhaps, have been rewarded by a qualified tribute of praise to "his discretion and good feeling;" and probably been seized upon at the same time in their own vindication, as a proof of Mr. Hale's consciousness, that his removal was well merited. In speaking thus freely of the conduct of the trustees in this affair, the writer intends no disrespect to them as individuals. But it is a well known fact, that men acting in a corporate or official capacity, are not always influenced by that high sense of individual responsibility, by which upright men are governed in their private and personal conduct.

Mr. Hale's letter to the trustees, was an open and manly appeal, such as might have been expected from the frankness of his character, containing a statement of the facts connected with his dismissal from office, and obviously demanding an official reply. The public expected it, the friends as well as enemies of the college expected it. Every one who felt any interest in the transaction, impatiently expected from some official source an explanation of the statements contained in Mr. Hale's letter, which so deeply implicated the official conduct of the trustees. This reasonable expectation has not been fulfilled; but instead of an official reply to Mr. Hale's letter, an anonymous pamphlet, under the signature of "Alumnus," has been issued in vindication of the conduct of the trustees, and apparently under their authority. For the author, page 6, refers to the trustees and the faculty of the college, for a verification of the statements contained in his pamphlet. This course, in refusing to meet Mr. Hale in the open field, and in confiding their defence to a nameless

and irresponsible writer, argues a consciousness of weakness in their cause. It looks very much like a continuance of the same covert mode of attack, with which the warfare against Mr. Hale, was commenced. It gives them the advantage of saying what they please, and at the same time of evading all responsibility for the correctness of their statements.

That this was a prudent course, considering the character of the pamphlet, cannot be doubted. No wise man, with a knowledge of the facts of the case, would risk his character with the public upon such statements as are contained in that publication, though the editor of a respectable religious paper, published in Boston, has inconsiderately volunteered to guarantee their correctness; and had it appeared under the *acknowledged* authority of the trustees, the writer believes he is safe in saying that many of its statements would have been much more guarded in terms, and much less at variance with the truth of the facts. The writer cannot easily be persuaded, that those of the trustees or of the college faculty who were personally knowing to the facts relative to the case, would stake their credit on the truth of many of the statements made by "Alumnus." Was it because "Alumnus" himself was ashamed of his shabby task of defaming Mr. Hale, and afraid that the detection and exposure of his misrepresentations, would be brought home to his own door, that he has cautiously concealed not only his own name, *but even the name of his printer*, and that of the place where his pamphlet issued from the press?

It is the intention of the writer to point out some parts of this pamphlet which are most distinguished for their want of fairness and honesty, and certain statements which are obnoxious to the graver charge of a more direct violation of truth.

But before proceeding to expose the erroneous statements of "Alumnus," it may be proper to notice his remarks upon the *mode* of Mr. Hale's dismissal. In reply to the almost universal complaint that Mr. Hale was not permitted to resign, but was hurled ignominiously from office, "Alumnus" remarks that "the resolutions were evidently intended to give him all the *advantages* of that privilege, and at the same time to save him from the mortification of being requested to resign." This defence carries on the face of it so strongly the aspect of the ludicrous, that at first view it seems difficult to believe that the writer is in earnest. It was evidently an after-thought, and a very shallow one too. He surely does not mean, that but for Mr. Hale himself, it would not have been known that his separation from the college was not his own act ; because, three days before he knew a syllable of what had been done, pains were taken by one of the board, to trumpet his dismissal abroad, with the reasons, which led to the measure. Now in what manner the trustees expected that he should obtain all the advantages of a voluntary resignation, after his removal and the reasons which led to it, were thus publicly made known several days before he knew a word of the matter himself, would puzzle a deeper head than that of "Alumnus" to explain. What advantages of the privilege of resigning remained to Mr. Hale, when the privilege itself was denied him, it is not very easy to perceive. His office was abolished without his knowledge, and pains were taken to inform the public of the fact and the causes of it, before he knew a word of it himself ; and yet, this very course, we are told, was intended to give Mr. Hale all the advantages of a voluntary resignation !

But "it was certainly in his power to acquiesce in it." Undoubtedly it was so. And so it is in the power of a man who has been robbed on the highway to

acquiesce in the injury, and thus save himself, as well as the one who has robbed him, a great deal of trouble. "The resolutions cautiously avoid allusion to any thing injurious to his reputation, and placed the charge upon views of the interests of the college, altogether independent of the character or relations of any individual." What is this but an implied confession that the reasons alleged in the "resolutions," for Mr. Hale's dismissal, were not the real ones? It is very true that the "resolutions" contain nothing injurious to Mr. Hale; but what guarantee had he, that the trustees would be equally reserved in their language, when called upon to explain the reasons of their conduct. Did the disclosure of a member of the board, in the stage-coach, the day after Mr. Hale's removal, give him any assurance that his character would be as scrupulously abstained from in their conversation as in their resolutions? The consequence of a silent acquiescence in his removal, by Mr. Hale, would undoubtedly have been, that the measure would have been justified, on *the very ground that he acquiesced in it*. His own forbearance in vindicating his character, would have been seized upon, in justification of the wrong which had been done him. His silence would have been adduced as a proof that he was conscious his dismissal was well merited; and he would thus have been accessory to the injury inflicted upon his own character.

With regard to the manner in which Mr. Hale was removed, it is enough to say, that it was received with a universal feeling of surprise and indignation. All parties, indiscriminately, united in condemning it, as unworthy of the trustees, and of Mr. Hale. The very best friends of the college openly condemned it; and many of them, notwithstanding the pains which have been taken to hush the voice of censure, by representing the injury which the

college may receive from it, still continue to express the same sentiments. Indeed the writer has reason to believe that the measure met with much opposition from certain members of the board of trustees, and it is well known that some of them had returned home, before it was finally adopted.

In exposing the misstatements and the dishonesty of "Alumnus," the principal topics, for the sake of clearness, will be considered under distinct heads.

### *The Cabinet of Minerals.*

On this subject there are several misrepresentations in the pamphlet of Alumnus, which require to be pointed out. He remarks, that "it is said, and by Mr. Hale himself, that essential injustice has been done him by depriving him of the charge of the mineralogical cabinet." This is not true. Mr. Hale says no such thing. He alludes to the cabinet, in his valedictory letter, to show what services he had rendered to the college, and obviously for no other purpose. Undoubtedly he felt wounded at being deprived, in so uncourteous a manner, of the charge of a collection, begun by himself, and upon which he had bestowed a good deal of labor without the slightest acknowledgment.

The account of Mr. Hale's connection with the mineralogical cabinet, given by Alumnus, is a pretty fair specimen of this writer's manner of distorting facts. He even endeavors to turn Mr. Hale's donations to the cabinet into a proof of his meanness. Mr. Hale says that he gave 500 specimens of minerals to the college; which Alumnus attempts to explain away, by saying that "the professors subscribed to the \$30,000 fund, from \$250 to \$500 each. All but Mr. Hale paid in money, he, in minerals selected from his private cabinet, and valued by himself."

The real facts of the case are these. When Mr. Hale went to Hanover as professor of chemistry, the \$30,000 fund was in a considerable measure subscribed for, and the professors of the college had already made their subscriptions. Soon after his arrival at Hanover, one of the medical professors remarked to the president, that as Mr. Hale had become so recently connected with the college, he thought it would be proper, not to request him to subscribe to the fund. The president acquiesced in the propriety of the suggestion; and, accordingly, nothing was said to Mr. Hale *at that time*, upon the subject. But sometime after, and not far from the time, when by the terms of the subscription it was necessary to have it completed, and there was some anxiety lest it should fail, the president said to Mr. Hale, “you have been with us but a short time, and *we cannot, therefore, expect you to subscribe as others of the officers have done*; but if you can give us a little help to make up the amount, we shall be glad of it.” Mr. Hale replied, that it would not be convenient for him to make a cash contribution at that time, but that he would give 400 specimens of minerals for the cabinet, which, said he, if you please, you may enter as a subscription to the fund. The president replied that he would do so, and asked at what value they should be entered. Mr. Hale replied that professor Hall had valued his at half a dollar a piece, which was something more than their value; that his own, he supposed were on an average as valuable as professor Hall’s, and that the higher they were valued, the further they would go towards completing the fund. If Mr. Hale’s name was put to the subscription, of which he has no recollection, it was done after this conversation, and at the president’s particular request. The minerals thus given to the college by Mr. Hale, Alumnus says “were *selected* from his

private cabinet." The truth is, Mr. Hale at that time, gave all that he had, which did not amount to 400; and afterwards added enough to make up not only 400 but 500. With regard to these minerals, Alumnus says, "it has been recently asserted by a college officer, that these same minerals may be bought of the college for less than half the smallest sum given by any other professor." This may be true. But it may be proper to remark, that so little has mineralogy been cultivated at Dartmouth college, that probably there is not a college officer who is capable of estimating the value of minerals.

When Mr. Hale went to Hanover, he found there a few paltry specimens, most of them of very little value, in two small boxes in the laboratory, and a few more in the old museum, making perhaps, including all the fragments, 100 in the whole. These he collected together, and as there was no place to receive them in the college, had a room fitted up contiguous to the laboratory, at his own expense, for their reception, and deposited them there, together with his own. This formed the nucleus of the present cabinet. Specimens were sent in from various quarters. Professor Hall gave a considerable number in payment of his subscription. Some were purchased of the Rev. President Wheeler, which were collected by him in Europe, and presented to the college. The Rev. Mr. Goodell, missionary in Syria, at that time in Malta, sent a box of minerals and shells, in consequence of a request made by Mr. Hale to the Rev. Mr. Temple, also a missionary in the Mediterranean, when he was on a visit a few years ago at Hanover. In this manner, from various sources, the cabinet increased till it contained 1200 or 1400 specimens. About that time, Mr. Cook, of Fryeburg, formed a plan of placing 1100 specimens in the cabinet. He put up boxes containing 100 specimens each, and

valued at \$50 apiece ; and he agreed if ten were paid for, to give the eleventh. The trustees, in order to secure them, paid for three boxes. Several gentlemen in Boston and Fryeburg purchased boxes, and presented them to the college. The medical professors, including Mr. Hale, became chargeable for a box, and the New Hampshire Medical Society for half a box. About 800 of these specimens came in at once. The labor of arranging and labelling many of these fell almost wholly upon Mr. Hale. He had labelled, entered into the catalogue, and arranged, 1200 or 1400 specimens *with his own hands*, and had also spent a great deal of time in examining many of them, without any assistance, except that Mr. A. A. Hayes, now of Roxbury, examined, labelled, and entered about 70 or 80 when he was Mr. Hale's assistant in chemistry, in the autumn of 1827. When the 800 specimens arrived, Mr. Hale told the president, that as he was in every thing which related to mineralogy and geology, laboring gratuitously, the college must furnish him with assistance in entering and arranging these new specimens. The president assented, provided Mr. Hale could obtain assistance at no great expense. He accordingly procured the aid of two members of the senior class, who received about \$7 *apiece* for their services, and this is the whole that Alumnus alludes to, where he says, that "several bills allowed to students for labelling and putting up of specimens, have been paid by the college !" What shall be said of such imperfect statements, and shameful perversions of the truth ; and what name is merited by the total silence of this writer in regard to most of Mr. Hale's gratuitous and disinterested services for the college, and by his labored attempt to depreciate those, which he cannot avoid mentioning, and even to convert them into a proof of Mr. Hale's meanness !

With this topic, is naturally connected,

*Mr. Hale's Services to the College:*

In his valedictory letter, Mr. Hale has given a brief account of his services *to the college*, as distinguished from those which he owed to *the medical school*. These have not been denied in direct terms, but an attempt is made to depreciate them by statements having a show of accuracy, of the very short time which these services have usually occupied. "Alumnus," with his usual hardihood of assertion, says, page 10, that Mr. Hale compressed his instruction, the last year, "*into one fortnight*;" and, again, page 15, that "the few exercises he has annually had in chemistry and natural history, were sometimes brought within two weeks, and never exceeded six or eight." The same assertions have been made by others. The degree of truth belonging to them, will be apparent from the following statement.

According to the arrangement which was chiefly followed during Mr. Hale's connection with the college, he had *the morning recitation through the spring term*. For the first four or five weeks, he taught the senior class in natural history, and afterwards heard recitations of the junior class eight weeks in chemistry. These recitations amounted to 20 or 25 in Smellie's Natural History, and about 40 in chemistry. When he commenced his recitations in chemistry, it was his custom to begin his lectures also, on the same subject, at a different hour, and to give four every week, during the eight weeks, just mentioned, making 32 lectures. His lectures on mineralogy and geology also, he usually gave in the latter part of the spring term, but sometimes in the summer term. They were altogether voluntary, and Mr. Hale consulted his own convenience, not so far as to omit them, but in the choice of the time in which they were given.

Here then, is the amount of Mr. Hale's instructions to the undergraduates, which *Alumnus* says "were sometimes brought within two weeks, and never exceeded six or eight !"

65 recitations in Natural History and Chemistry,  
32 lectures on Chemistry,  
20 lectures on Mineralogy and Geology.

Let it be further considered, that every lecture which Mr. Hale gave, was equal in labor to *two recitations*, and many of them to *three or four*, on account of the time and labor employed in preparing them.

The last year's instruction to the undergraduates, *Alumnus* alleges Mr. Hale compressed into *one fortnight*. It is painful to be obliged to charge with direct falsehood an assertion coming from one who appeals to the trustees and faculty of the college for the truth of his statements. But a regard to truth, and to the character of Mr. Hale, which is assailed by this statement, will not permit the writer to hesitate in exposing its positive untruth. The last year Mr. Hale's lectures on chemistry to the college, *were given in the fall term*, in order to give the professor of natural philosophy the opportunity to commence his lectures in the spring; and *the change was made at his suggestion*. The year before, it had been proposed, and the proposal was adopted by the college faculty, to dispense with *text-book* recitations in chemistry, and to confine the instruction in this science to lectures, and examinations upon each lecture at the commencement of the next. This change Mr. Hale assented to, and indeed for reasons which influenced the faculty to adopt it, favored; but it was not his work.

The chemical lectures given to the college students in the autumn of 1834, (the first term of the last college

year,) occupied about nine weeks, at four lectures a week. These, it will be observed, are left wholly out of the account by "Alumnus." When the spring term commenced in February, it was found necessary to abridge the studies of the senior class, because the college year had been shortened by the bringing forward of commencement to July. It was accordingly *voted by the faculty that Smellie be omitted*. Of course that Mr. Hale did not give his usual instructions in that book, to the senior class, *was the work of the faculty themselves*. There remained nothing, therefore, of Mr. Hale's usual labors for the year, but his lectures on mineralogy and geology. As soon as the term was as far advanced as the time when these lectures had usually been given, Mr. Hale sought opportunity to deliver them. At that time, however, the Rev. Mr. Burchard was holding protracted meetings at Hanover, and in the vicinity. His public services commenced at 2, P. M., the hour at which Mr. Hale had been accustomed to lecture, and so fully engrossed attention, that Mr. Hale was literally obliged to suspend his lectures, until Mr. Burchard's services were closed. The earlier part of the day was so entirely taken up with college exercises, that no time could be found for Mr. Hale's lectures in the morning; and when Mr. Burchard's meetings had closed, the term was nearly at an end, and professor Young, as well as Mr. Hale, was anxious to commence lecturing. As so little time remained, and the lectures of both were pressing, it was agreed between them that Mr. Hale should lecture one week, and then give way to professor Young. Mr. Hale, who was thus obliged without any fault of his own, to omit some of his accustomed labors, concluded to sacrifice his lectures on mineralogy, and delivered 9 or 10 on geology. From this statement it will appear not only that Mr. Hale *did not* compress his labors last year into

the compass of a fortnight, as he is charged with doing by Alumnus, but that he did not omit any even of his voluntary and unpaid labors through any fault (if fault there could be under such circumstances) of his own. The attention of the reader is particularly requested to the assertion of Alumnus on this subject, and the above plain statement of the facts of the case.

In his valedictory letter, Mr. Hale intimates that the entire absence of any pretensions to physical science among the members of the board of trustees, has had an injurious effect upon the college. "Alumnus" endeavors to retort upon Mr. Hale, by making it appear to be his fault that there is not as much zeal and attainment among the students of Dartmouth college, in chemistry, mineralogy and geology, as at Bowdoin, Amherst or Yale. This is about as honest as many other remarks and statements of that writer. It is true that the trustees cannot "create an interest in the natural sciences;" but it is no less so, that neither can a professor do it, whatever his zeal may be, without means, and against many adverse influences. What professor in the United States surpassed Mr. Hale's predecessor, the late Dr. Dana, in acquirements in chemistry and the physical sciences, in enthusiastic attachment to these sciences, and in all the qualifications of a teacher? Yet what interest was he able to excite in chemistry, by his admirable lectures. He labored strenuously and with almost exclusive devotion to the subject, but he felt that so far as the college was concerned, he labored in vain. Speaking of the college in reference to physical science, in a letter written not far from the time of his leaving it, he used the following remarkable expression, that "it was anchored in the stream, and served only to show its velocity."

The amplitude of the means by which Mr. Hale was to

create a love for the physical sciences, it may be proper to point out. When he went to Hanover, there were, perhaps, 100 mineralogical specimens and fragments, scattered about the premises, neither labelled nor arranged, except such as stuck to their places among the ruins of the old "museum," and there displayed themselves under the scientific denomination of "variegated stones." There was not at that time, a single modern volume in the college library upon either mineralogy or geology, and scarcely one, if one, upon chemistry, later than the days of Fournroy and Vauquelin. Even the society libraries were but little better supplied than the college, except that they possessed Cleaveland's Mineralogy, and the English translation of Cuvier on the revolutions of the globe. The taste of the students had been fixed by long habit upon different departments of learning; and by means of their excellent libraries was very much directed to general literature. In such a state of things, what reasonable man could expect that Mr. Hale, single-handed and without means, should be able at once to check the current of public taste, and give it a new direction?

But had he not made a successful beginning towards a result which "Alumnus" thinks he ought triumphantly to have achieved? He commenced a cabinet of minerals, and somehow or other under his management, and with very little expense to the trustees, it has become respectable and excited interest. He commenced lecturing, *voluntarily and without compensation*, on mineralogy and geology, and his lectures excited *some interest*. At least they were very well attended, and *attended*, as well as given, *voluntarily*. At Mr. Hale's request, the trustees appropriated \$100 for books which were needed, and a few more were added afterwards, when the trustees made another appropriation for the library. Some years ago,

Mr. Hale urged the expediency of taking some of the leading scientific periodicals. He was put off again and again; and has never to this day been informed of the "standing vote authorizing such periodicals to be taken," but by the *unvouched* statement of "Alumnus."

The appropriations to the chemical apparatus, and the mineralogical cabinet, were on an equally extensive scale. The trustees paid \$200 for chemical apparatus, while Mr. Hale was connected with the college, and about \$250 towards the cabinet of minerals. While the mineralogical cabinets of the colleges with which "Alumnus" thinks fit to compare Dartmouth, and which he seems to think Dartmouth ought to rival in the taste and zeal of its pupils for the physical sciences, have cost thousands, that of Yale college, probably, not less than \$15,000. The same colleges too, have expended thousands of dollars on their chemical as well as philosophical apparatus. They have also granted to their professors *sufficient time* to teach the sciences in question; and in other respects, they have treated these sciences, as if they were worthy of attention.

The truth is, that at Dartmouth college, the prevailing taste was decidedly *anti-physical*. It was directed another way; and not only so, there was among the college faculty a disposition *to undervalue the physical sciences*. Natural philosophy had always been taught to a greater or less extent, and had acquired prescriptive respect as an ancient study. But the junior physical sciences were looked upon as new comers and intruders, whom nobody knew any thing about. Mr. Hale had urged the claims of chemistry, but always without success. On one occasion, when the faculty were together adjusting the studies of a term just commencing, and an allowance of time for chemistry was asked, one of the senior professors gravely asked Mr. Hale, "What is the use of so many lectures on chemistry?"

I should think nine or ten would be enough, four or five on caloric, and a few more on oxygen, water and atmospheric air." Mineralogy was not unfrequently spoken of with a sneer; and the zeal of two or three young men for this science, who happened to be undistinguished in any other study, was at one time made so much a matter of ridicule, that a student's reputation for scholarship seemed hardly to be safe, if he happened to discover any interest in mineralogy. Mr. Hale felt so strongly the existence of such an influence against all his efforts, that for the last 3 or 4 years, he resolved to do nothing more than merely to continue his voluntary lectures to the classes on mineralogy and geology; and had he understood beforehand, what sort of reception these voluntary labors would have met with among the college authorities, they would never have been undertaken. The reader will bear in mind that these disclosures are not made by Mr. Hale, until extorted from him in self-defence.

It is said by "Alumnus," page 14, that "individuals this very year went to Dartmouth, to enjoy her other advantages, with the avowed intention of leaving, after two years, for the purpose of going elsewhere to receive instruction in these branches." This fact will not be a matter of surprise to the reader, after perusing the preceding statement. "Alumnus" seems to forget that the young men, who leave Dartmouth college at the close of the sophomore year, pay as little compliment to the professors of metaphysics and natural philosophy in that institution, as to the professor of chemistry.

In judging upon this subject, the reader is careful to recollect that Mr. Hale was *never appointed by the trustees, or requested by them, to teach mineralogy, geology, or any other branch of natural history.* What he did, *he did of his own motion.* He undertook the task *voluntarily, to*

supply an obvious deficiency in the instruction, and in the face of many unfavorable and adverse influences. He received no reward for these services, not even a vote of thanks; and he expected none. But he did *not* expect that even his *voluntary* and *unpaid* services, would be made the ground of a complaint, that he did not do more; and that his fidelity as an instructor should be assailed because he did not do *every thing* in a department of instruction, in which the college had no claim upon him to do *any thing*.

It is stated by "Alumnus," page 13, that in giving Mr. Hale the instruction of the college classes in chemistry, at his election to the chemical professorship, the trustees hoped that a greater interest would be excited in physical studies. This is probably an after-thought, and a very recent one. No hint was given to Mr. Hale, that any thing more was expected than that he should do what professor Adams had previously done, and no provision was made or contemplated for an increase in the amount of instruction in chemistry. Nothing more perfectly groundless, probably, could be asserted, than that the trustees were very desirous of having such a taste for the physical sciences excited as distinguishes the colleges brought into the comparison by "Alumnus." No provision was made for it; and such a change would, doubtless, have been deprecated by the faculty themselves.

### *Mr. Hale's Absences.*

Among the principal grounds on which Mr. Hale's removal has been justified, are the alleged dissatisfaction of the students with his instructions; and his numerous absences. On the latter of these topics "Alumnus" is singularly rash and reckless in his assertions. He speaks of Mr. Hale "as engaged, spring and summer, in preaching

and performing parochial duty in Portland and Boston, or on a mission among the Episcopalians of western Massachusetts." Without stopping to inquire whether it was more inconsistent with the duty of a professor, to preach and perform parochial services in Portland and Boston, than in Norwich and Hartford, it may be observed that the language of "Alumnus," though not chargeable with a direct violation of the truth, is calculated to produce an impression widely at variance with fact. Who would not suppose from this language, that Mr. Hale's springs and summers had been pretty regularly devoted to clerical duties abroad? Let the following plain statement set the matter right.

*During the winter vacation* in February, 1832, Mr. Hale went to Portland, and preached six Sundays in St. Paul's church. In March, he returned to Hanover in season to give instruction in chemistry at the usual time. In consequence of this absence, which extended three or four weeks into the spring term, he omitted to instruct the senior class in Smellie's Philosophy of Natural History. Let it be understood, however, that Mr. Hale *was under no obligation to teach Smellie*. It was a gratuitous service; and when he consented to teach it a year or two before, it was with the express understanding, that when it was not convenient for him to do it, he should not be holden. Mr. Hale made this stipulation, in consequence of having been admonished by a friend in the faculty, who is now no more, not to be too forward in offering his services; "for," said he, "it is easier to get work, than to get rid of it." This, however, *was the only time* when Mr. Hale omitted to teach Smellie, or any thing else which he had voluntarily undertaken, in consequence of absence, or of any neglect of his own. For the omission to teach Smellie last year, he was not answerable, as has already appeared in another place.

After this, Mr. Hale was not absent again (except occasionally on short journeys of a week or two, which interfered in no way whatever, with any of his duties to the college) until the summer of 1834. During that summer he was three months in Boston preaching in St. Paul's church. *This absence, however, occasioned no omission of any of his duties to the college.* He instructed the senior class in Smellie, as usual, the first part of the spring term. He then instructed the junior class in chemistry, and gave his usual lectures in chemistry, mineralogy and geology; and no further instruction, voluntary or required, remained for him to give, till after commencement.

His next absence was from January 26, 1835, to February 19, in the service of the Massachusetts Episcopal Missionary Society, not as a missionary but as an agent. *This absence fell wholly within the winter vacation*, when all the college officers are absent who choose to be. He again left Hanover, May 1, 1835, on the same service, and returned thither, June 2. *This absence included the spring vacation.*

These are the absences to which Alumnus alludes, where he speaks of Mr. Hale as "engaged spring and summer, in preaching and performing parochial duty in Portland or Boston, or on a mission among the Episcopal churches of western Massachusetts." With how much honesty they are urged against Mr. Hale, will be apparent from the fact, that one of his principal absences, viz. that in the service of the Massachusetts Missionary Society, amounting to just eight weeks, *covered only two weeks of term time.*

If these absences, which interfered not at all with Mr. Hale's duties to the college, were wrong, why was he not told so? It was well known beforehand, when he was going to be absent, but it was never intimated to him by

the college authorities, that such absences were improper, or in any way injuriously affected the interests of the college. Indeed, when Mr. Hale on one occasion, spoke with the president, of his intended absence in the service of the Missionary Society above mentioned, the latter remarked, that he hoped Mr. Hale would be successful in exciting a missionary spirit among the churches.

Mr. Hale's medical colleagues have enjoyed and exercised the privilege of being absent when they pleased. They have been repeatedly absent for months at a time, lecturing at other institutions, or otherwise engaged. Mr. Hale naturally supposed that he possessed equal liberty himself; and it never occurred to him, that when not on duty, he was to be confined to the limits of Hanover. It is really difficult to suppress the feelings of indignation which are excited by such shameful exaggerations and misstatements as those of "Alumnus," in relation to this subject. *Query.* Has not this writer somehow or other lost an initial C from his signature?

### *Mode of Lecturing and Competency.*

On this topic, "Alumnus" says, page 16, that "he feels great pain in being obliged to say that Mr. Hale has not been regarded as successful, either in opening the great principles of the science in an impressive and exciting manner, or in his experiments." He says further, "that the medical class have, at times, been restrained from open complaint, only by timely suggestion and advice." He also alludes to the deserted condition of Mr. Hale's lecture room. "Alumnus," it is to be presumed, scarcely expects that his readers will sympathize very deeply in the great pain he feels, in making charges against Mr. Hale, which are so necessary to the justification of the trustees, and on which their defence is under-

stood chiefly to rest. The true reading of the passage, the writer apprehends to be, instead of "he feels great *pain* in being *obliged* to say," "he feels great *satisfaction* in being *able* to say," &c. After all, he closes his calumnies upon this subject with a confession "that it is matter of mere opinion." Facts, it is apprehended, are *not* matters of *mere opinion*. The deserted condition of Mr. Hale's lecture room, and the necessity of restraining the medical class from open complaint, can hardly fall within the category of *mere opinion*.

These charges of "*Alumnus*," which are supported by no proof, it is sufficient to meet with a direct and positive denial. That Mr. Hale has given *universal* satisfaction as a lecturer on chemistry, the writer does not pretend to say; for there are few lecturers on any branch of science, of which this can be said with truth. If so severe a test as the absence of all complaint, is to be applied to the qualifications of a professor, the writer is much afraid that Mr. Hale would not have been the only sufferer in the late *reform*. If it be true that Mr. Hale's lecture room has not *always* been well filled, which is probable enough in itself, without inferring any deficiency in his qualifications as a lecturer, the fact is to be explained, partly by the uninteresting nature of many of the details into which a professor of chemistry is obliged to enter, as e. g. the properties of the metals, those of the salts, &c. which it is extremely difficult for a lecturer, however gifted, to render interesting to the whole of a large class. It is also a fact, which ought to be known in reference to this charge against Mr. Hale, that there are many medical students who undervalue the importance of chemistry, and who are apt to consider the time devoted to the study of it, as so much lost to the more essential part of their professional studies. Both of these causes operated during the profes-

sorship of the late Dr. Dana, and to a certain extent they always *will* operate, in thinning the seats of a chemical lecture room, especially during certain parts of the course of lectures. Mr. Hale's lectures were always well attended while he was employed "in opening the great principles of the science," the very point where, according to this rash and ignorant writer, he failed. If his audience sometimes became thinner in subsequent parts of the course, when he was obliged to enter into minute and uninteresting details, the fault was not his. Every lecturer on chemistry, and indeed, on almost every other subject, has experienced the same.

As to the alleged want of success in his experiments, if it be only meant that he *sometimes* failed, it is doubtless true, for who has not? But if it be intended to assert that his failures were frequent or numerous, the charge is wholly unfounded.

If it be true, as "Alumnus" says, that "the medical class have at times been restrained from open complaint, only by timely suggestions and advice," it seems very extraordinary, that one at least of Mr. Hale's colleagues, as the writer is authorized to say, and for aught he knows, both, should never before have heard of it.

But upon this point, it is proper that the students themselves, who attended Mr. Hale's instructions, should be heard, especially as the medical class is represented by "Alumnus" to have been so entirely dissatisfied, as at times, to have been restrained from open outbreacking "only by timely suggestion and advice." Let us then hear the resolutions of the last medical class.

"*Resolved*, That the gentlemanly deportment and general urbanity, which have characterized his (Mr. Hale's) intercourse with us, and the manner in which he has acquitted himself of the various duties devolving on his

department, justly entitle him to our *entire approbation*, and grateful remembrance."

"*Resolved*, That, inasmuch as the opinion has gone abroad, that the trustees justify their proceedings, on the ground of his (Mr. Hale's) incompetency, we deem it an act of justice to himself, as well as to ourselves, to state, that the clearness of his language, and the general success of his experiments, have been such as to afford us *entire satisfaction*." This is what "*Alumnus*" terms the *guarded language of a portion of the medical class*. This portion of the class, the reader will please to understand, comprehended about *five sixths of the whole*; and the writer has in his possession at the present time, a letter to Mr. Hale from a very respectable and worthy member of the minority, who expresses the same sentiments, but who declined voting for the resolutions, because he thought it did not belong to the medical class, to sit in judgment upon the doings of the trustees.

These resolutions, it is proper to add, were unsolicited by Mr. Hale. The resolutions of the senior class are equally at variance with the "matter of mere opinion" of "*Alumnus*."

"*Resolved*, That the senior class of Dartmouth college, entertain a high respect for the character and talents of professor Hale, and that *they highly appreciate his services as an instructor*, and the urbanity and courtesy which have uniformly characterized his intercourse with them.

"*Resolved*, That the senior class view with regret, the removal of professor Hale from the professorship of chemistry in Dartmouth college, *as a loss to themselves and to the institution* of which they are members."

A heavy loss indeed, if a tithe of what "*Alumnus*" insinuates, is true.

The resolutions of the members of the Phi Beta Kappa,

of which Mr. Hale has been three years president, express similar sentiments.

“ *Resolved*, That the Society of the Phi Beta Kappa Society of Dartmouth college, entertain a high respect for the character of professor Hale, and a *high opinion of the nature of his services as an officer of college*, and of the courtesy which has uniformly distinguished his intercourse with its members.” To these testimonials the writer takes much pleasure in subjoining one extract from a letter addressed to professor Hale, by several of the most distinguished members of the medical class of 1833. Probably the signatures of the whole class would have been affixed to it, if its members were not widely dispersed. This letter, it is proper to remark, was wholly unsolicited by Mr. Hale, and so far as the writer knows, by any of his friends.

“ *Lowell, December 9, 1835.*

“ PROFESSOR HALE,

“ *Dear Sir*,—It is with feelings of deep regret that we have read the late proceedings of the trustees of Dartmouth college, in abolishing the important professorship which *you have so honorably discharged to the perfect satisfaction of your students*, and to the favored reputation of the institution.”

Many other passages occur in this letter, highly expressive of the personal regard of the writers for Mr. Hale, as well as of the estimation in which they held his services as an instructor in chemistry.

The foregoing statement will enable the reader to judge of the credit that is due to the charges of incompetency, and an unsatisfactory discharge of his duties to the college,

which are brought against Mr. Hale, with so much affected reluctance, by "Alumnus."

But admitting all which has been said by this writer, respecting Mr. Hale's absences, his neglect of his duties, and his incompetency and unpopularity as a lecturer, to be true, why was no complaint ever made to him by the president or trustees? Why was he permitted to go on, year after year, unconscious of their dissatisfaction? Why were the interests of the college permitted to suffer by such flagrant delinquencies, without a syllable ever having been said to Mr. Hale on the subject, and when a single word to him would at once have removed the evil, or would have furnished the trustees with justifiable grounds for removing the delinquent? Will "Alumnus," or any other advocate for the conduct of the trustees, answer these questions, and will he also say why, in enlarging upon Mr. Hale's delinquencies, he has been profoundly silent on his numerous gratuitous services? There is a degree of unfairness, not to say of dishonesty, in his treatment of this and many other topics connected with the subject, which deserves the severest condemnation. The writer has no hesitation in expressing his full belief, that, had the pretended causes of complaint which are alleged to exist against Mr. Hale, existed in reality against any other college officer, he would in the first instance have been privately admonished by the president; and not until he had shown himself incorrigible by this means, would his connection with the college have been violently ruptured. Do the private annals of the college furnish no instance of remissness in an officer, which has been treated by the gentle corrective of private admonition? The writer merely suggests the question to those who are better acquainted with the college history than himself.

“Alumnus,” page 14, closes his remarks on one branch of this subject in the following manner. “Such being the facts, who does not see the urgent necessity of a change, which should bring a man of suitable qualifications, and a passion for such pursuits, into immediate connection with the undergraduates?” On this subject the writer would state that he has evidence in his possession, to show, that when the department of mathematics and natural philosophy was divided into two sections by the trustees, to be under two professors, the present respectable professor of mathematics and natural philosophy, was offered his choice of the two divisions, i. e. either of that which should include *mathematics* and *astronomy*, or that which should embrace *chemistry* and *natural philosophy*. Whether the attainments of this respectable gentleman in chemistry, mineralogy, or geology, or his passion for these sciences, or his talents and popularity as a lecturer, would have succeeded in inspiring the desired “enthusiasm in chemistry, mineralogy, and geology,” the writer leaves for those who have better means of judging than himself, to determine. On the whole, how far it appears probable the trustees were influenced by their solicitude for the interests of these sciences, in abolishing the professorship of chemistry, and getting rid of the late professor, let the public after a full view of the subject decide.

### *Mr. Hale's Episcopacy.*

On this subject, “Alumnus” says, “the college has been charged with sectarianism, and persecution for religious opinions and modes of worship in this case. Mr. Hale is an Episcopalian, and a clergyman; and has evidently the impression that his office was abolished on that account. The trustees are understood utterly to deny this charge,” &c. Before proceeding to consider this

subject, the writer would ask "Alumnus" a single question, on the answer to which, if a sincere and honest one could be obtained, he would be willing to rest the whole fate of this controversy. Do you seriously believe that if Mr. Hale had *not* been an Episcopalian, if the zeal he is said to have displayed in propagating Episcopacy had been exerted in the cause of the prevailing religious views at Hanover, he would have been treated as he has been? This question, "Alumnus," and all others who have any knowledge of the subject well know, admits but of one answer, and that in the negative. It would be but a poor and shallow hypocrisy to affect any doubt on the subject. Indeed, "Alumnus" himself, while he says that "the trustees are understood utterly to deny the charge," (viz. that Mr. Hale's office was abolished on account of his Episcopacy,) virtually admits its truth. In page 20, he says, "it is submitted whether the resolutions of the trustees, so far as they have any bearing upon sectarianism, are not in fact, and *were not intended to be*, aimed at the prevention of it in the college." By sectarianism in this place, can be meant nothing else but the influence of Mr. Hale's religious opinions as an Episcopalian, and the remark of "Alumnus" is a virtual confession that the resolutions of the trustees were aimed at abolishing sectarianism in the person of professor Hale. Again, page 21, he says, "The course of events, however much or little Mr. Hale is to be blamed for it, was fast giving to the college the reputation abroad, of exerting undue influence upon young men in circumstances in which they were ill enabled to investigate the matter thoroughly, *to divert them from the forms of worship* in which they had been bred, and to which the main supporters of the institution are attached." It is then distinctly admitted by "Alumnus," though it has been denied, if the writer has

not been misinformed, by some of the trustees themselves, as well as by some of their advocates, that their resolutions were intended to get rid of Mr. Hale's religious influence in the college. This confession is a very important one, and as it is possible the trustees may not see fit to assume the responsibility of all "Alumnus's" statements, or to sanction all his concessions, it may be proper to strengthen it by other evidence. "Alumnus" admits, page 18, that "no little displeasure was excited, not only among clergymen, but laymen also, in different parts of the State," by reports of Mr. Hale's influence. This is very true, and well known. And it is also true, that some of these "displeased clergymen" urged professor Hale's removal from the college.

At a meeting of one of the associations alluded to in Mr. Hale's "letter," at which president L. was present, much complaint was made of the influence which Mr. Hale was exerting, and some of the clergy present told the president that they had heard that "professor Hale was in the habit of visiting students at their rooms, and of employing other measures in order to convert them to the Episcopalian faith, and that a number of proselytes had already been made." The president in reply, said, that he was ignorant of any such things, (and well he might be,) but gave assurance that if things were so, *a remedy should be applied*. What inquiries he might make, to ascertain whether things were so, the writer does not know; but had he discovered the proselyting measures referred to, no doubt they would have figured on the pages of "Alumnus." The minds of the complainants, however, were not to be quieted without the application of the *remedy*, and it was therefore applied. The infecting limb was cut off.

Some months before the last commencement, one of

these "displeased clergymen" said, that he had talked with the president and faculty about Mr. Hale's proselyting, and the necessity of his removal from the college, and that "the trustees would do something about it the next time they should meet. *They would dismiss him.*" One of the members of the last senior class, before his return to college at the close of the winter vacation, heard that professor Hale was to be dismissed, and reported it to his room-mate; but supposing it to be without foundation, they kept it to themselves.

This matter has probably been sometime in agitation. More than two years ago, a clergyman in high esteem at Hanover said, "that professor Hale ought not to be permitted to stay there." And it may be supposed that such a motion would not be disagreeable to the faculty, if, as has been reported on good authority, the president remarked "that professor Hale was a sore in all their eyes."

As if to follow up the matter, another clergyman in particular esteem with the faculty, declared to the trustees at commencement, "that he would not send his son," who was just ready to enter college, "to Hanover, to be made an Episcopalian."

Who then can have a shadow of doubt that we have here the true cause of Mr. Hale's dismissal; a cause, for obvious reasons not alluded to in the resolutions, and which "the trustees are understood utterly to deny;" and that the alleged reasons are either got up for the occasion, or were entirely subordinate to the great object of getting rid of Mr. Hale's Episcopalian influence in the college.

That he did not obtrude his views upon others, "Alumnus" himself appears to admit; though it is obvious that he seeks to leave the impression upon the minds of his readers that Mr. Hale was an active proselyter. He even tries to make it Mr. Hale's duty to proselyte; says "that

he denies the existence of any other ministry than that of the Episcopal church, *any other baptism*, any other church in the world." It is a little remarkable if all this is true, that Mr. Hale, whose parents are Congregationalists, and who was baptized by the minister of a Congregational church, *has never been rebaptized*. The truth is, that Mr. Hale holds his own opinions firmly, but with the conviction that others have the same right to the enjoyment of their opinions, that he has to his. As he is an Episcopal clergyman, it was impossible for him to live at Hanover, and not be the means of some Episcopalian influence. But the few individuals, who, in the exercise of their own free judgment, have become Episcopalians at Dartmouth college, will testify, that Mr. Hale's conduct towards them, instead of being obtrusive, was one of delicacy and reserve; that he did not urge them to adopt his views, nor even explain them unless requested; and that he acted not in a proselyting and sectarian, but in a catholic spirit.

It remains to be seen how far public opinion will ultimately sanction such an abuse of *irresponsible power*, as the removal of Mr. Hale for the reasons which undoubtedly prompted that measure; and whether the people of New Hampshire will submit to have the only college in her borders devoted to the interests, and under the exclusive management, of one sect.

One remark more, and the writer is done. It appears that one great object aimed at, in abolishing the professorship of chemistry, as set forth in the preamble to the "resolutions," and expounded by "Alumnus," is to save expense, by supporting a *college professor*, out of the pockets of the medical class!

INVESTIGATOR.













Accession no. 21609

Author

[Oliver, Daniel]

Remarks on a  
pamphlet...[1835?]

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